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REPORTS

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OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

Town Treasurer, and Selectmen

OF

FITZWILLIAM, N. H.,

READ AT THE ANNUAL MEETING,

March 12, 1850.

PRINTED BY A VOTE OF THE TOWN.

KEENE:

OTIS F. R. WAITE, PRINTER.
1850.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
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REPORT.

THE Superintending School Committee of the town of Fitzwilliam, would submit the following report of the condition of the Schools, the past year.

It is gratifying to be able to state to our fellow citizens, that their Schools have been prosperous in a good degree. In the main, we can speak of them in terms of approbation. Some of them, as far as our observation extends, have never sustained a better examination. Others have not succeeded so well; all admit of improvement.

The number of absent days exceeds that of either of the last three previous years. This is to be attributed to sickness. The greatest number of absent days in any School, during the Summer Term, was three hundred fourteen—the least number was thirty-six; the aggregate was fourteen hundred seventy-eight and a half. The greatest number in any School during the Winter Term was three hundred forty-one and a half—the least number was forty-seven—the aggregate, was fifteen hundred eighty-three. Aggregate for the year, three thousand sixty-one and a half.

The number of tardy marks has been less than that of either of the last three previous years. The largest number in any School during the Summer Term, was fifty-seven, the least number was three, the aggregate was two hundred eight. The largest number in any School during the Winter Term, was fifty-eight, the least number was four, the aggregate was three hundred eight. Aggregate for the year, five hundred sixteen.

The number of visitors both before and at the close of the Schools, plainly shows that the inhabitants of the town have not lost their interest in the cause of Common School Education. But we need not dwell on these matters as the subjoined statistical tables furnish, perhaps, all needful information of the kind.

Your Committee would suggest a few things, in relation to Teachers. In ordinary cases it is believed that almost the entire value of the School depends upon the qualifications and efficiency of the Teacher.— This is thought to be true, with respect to the moral training of the School, and also with respect to the progress made in the various branches of learning taught.

In the selection of Teachers, therefore, it is thought desirable that much effort should be made to secure the *best*, and such as have an established reputation as superior instructors. It is believed that it is not for the interest and prosperity of our Schools, that we employ second or third rate Teachers. Only the best should be sought.

It is better that higher prices be paid for *superior* Teachers, and the term of schooling diminished than that we have long Schools and inferior Teachers. It is better that Prudential Committees should make an early effort to obtain Teachers of the first order, and at corresponding prices, than that they should wait to be called upon by such as desire the privilege of spending their time, perhaps to little purpose, in the School Room for a more limited compensation.

The qualifications of Teachers is a consideration of vital importance to our Schools. And with respect to these the Superintending Committee may not be able always to judge satisfactorily. That every Teacher should possess an unblemished moral character, there can be no doubt, and there should also be an entire freedom from any habits or vices which may tend to corrupt the youth committed to their care. No person should be employed as a Teacher who is addicted to any bad habit which parents would be unwilling to have their children contract. And in order that the community may feel themselves safe in this respect, it might be well if the Prudential Committees would make some inquiry, and satisfy themselves on these points, particularly in relation to such as might come from abroad

before such individuals are even conditionally engaged. An elevated moral character is absolutely essential to a good Teacher. None are worthy of the office without it. No person should be engaged as a Teacher, who does not possess *high literary* qualifications. The Superintending Committee may satisfy the "letter of the law" by approbating as Teachers, those "who may be suitably qualified to teach the English language grammatically, and the rudiments of Arithmetic and Geography," while they do not satisfy their consciences. It is believed that the interests of our Schools at the present time, demand that they should be entrusted to the care of only the *most thoroughly* qualified and experienced Teachers. Such only can be expected to meet all the wants of the scholars.

And with a thorough knowledge of all that is required to be taught, there needs to be, also, aptness to teach with very much of amiableness of temper, and self-control. But in relation to these the Superintending Committee may have no means of satisfying themselves.—It is therefore very desirable that such persons only be employed for Teachers as have some reputation for these traits of character. Thus might the most effectual means be taken to elevate the character of all our Schools. For we cannot have the highest order of Schools, without we have the best of Teachers. And those only should be presented for examination, as to literary qualifications, who are known to possess the other essential qualifications.

Suggestions have heretofore been made, by Superintending Committees relative to the *examination of Teachers*. It is highly desirable that all be examined at the same time, if it can be done. By some effort an arrangement may usually be made to effect this; and thereby a saving of time and expense be made. By a neglect of some arrangement of this kind, some incon-

venience has been experienced the past year, which it is hoped may be avoided in time to come.

Another point may be briefly noticed. It is believed that the establishment of well selected libraries in the various School Districts, would be highly serviceable to the interests of education; serving to diffuse general intelligence among all classes and ages, and to divert the mind from a useless, and often injurious course of reading to one that would prove of lasting benefit. It is hoped that the time may be not far distant, when this object will receive the consideration which it obviously merits.

In conclusion your Committee would earnestly recommend to the citizens of Fitzwilliam not only to continue, but likewise to increase their efforts for the advancement of the cause of education. The cause is one of vital importance, and demands increased energy and zeal in its support. It is most intimately connected with every interest; civil, social, religious, and domestic. It seems that the world is awaking to the immense importance of the subject of education. The movement in favor of it is extending and becoming more general. Never probably has more thought been bestowed upon the subject than at the present time; never more done in its behalf. This is one of the bright features of the present age. The work will go on.—Nothing can arrest the movement. And surely the inhabitants of Fitzwilliam, should not be found wanting in this noble cause. Let them, then, enlist in it with new earnestness. They have done well; they have done much; but they must do more, or lose in a great measure the benefit of their present advanced position.

Respectfully submitted, by

JOHN S. BROWN,
CHARLES M. WILLARD,
ABRAHAM JENKINS.

Superintending School Committee of Fitzwilliam.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

U. L.

Districts,		-	-	-	1	2	3	4	5	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total.
Whole number of scholars,	-	-	-	-	39	18	20	20	49	56	19	38	15		30	28	332
Average Attendance,	-	-	-	-	32 $\frac{2}{3}$	14	16	18	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	28	13		24 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	275
Males,	-	-	-	-	19	7	5	7	15	21	12	19	7		16	12	140
Females,	-	-	-	-	20	11	15	13	34	35	7	19	8		14	16	192
Length of school in weeks,	-	-	-	-	9	8	8	8	15	15	7	9	5		7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
Absence in days,	-	-	-	-	236	36	133	76	261	314	84	136	35 $\frac{1}{2}$		105	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	1478
Times tardy,	-	-	-	-	7	12	15	18	57	30	3	17	12		31	6	208
Number of scholars in Arithmetic,	-	-	-	-	25	9	14	3	48		10	33	9		14	13	178
" " Geography,	-	-	-	-	16	5	6	6	35		3	18	4		4	14	111
" " Penmanship,	-	-	-	-	19	5	10	7	27		6	18	7		13	8	120
" " Composition,	-	-	-	-	22	8	8	5	48	14	17		7			7	136
Visitors before examination,	-	-	-	-	35	32	27	22	37	34	17	31	5		24	8	272
" at	-	-	-	-	29	36	30	28	35		30	54	20		30	18	310
Wages of Teachers per month,	-	-	-	-	8	6	8	7	12	11	7	7	8		7	6	

WINTER SCHOOLS.

U. L.

Districts, - - -	1	2	3	4	5	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
No. of scholars, - - -	62	27	36	23	65	54	32	42	18	22	40	22	443
Average attendance, - - -	56½	23¼	32	20	57	49½	25	35⅝	13½	15½	37	20⅝	385½
Males, - - -	37	14	18	9	31	22	19	25	10	12	25	7	229
Females, - - -	25	13	18	14	34	32	13	17	8	10	15	15	214
Length of school in weeks, - - -	12½	9	11	8	10	9	10	7	11	16	7	10	120½
Absence in days, - - -	339	88	88½	47	121½	173½	124	108		341	94½	57	1582
No. times tardy, - - -	16	29	4	18	16	44	19	12	16	46	30	58	308
No. of scholars in Arithmetic, - - -	46	13	31	17	50	33	18	30	9	12	20	18	297
“ “ Geography, - - -	19	7	12	13	29	21	12	19	3	7	6	16	164
“ “ Penmanship, - - -	39	13	25	14	59		14	26	10	11	17	13	241
“ “ Composition, - - -	32	15	24	11	63	50	14	14	9	10	9	16	267
Visitors before examination, - - -	35	8	22	12	30	29	21	6	16	9	17	11	216
“ at “ - - -	45	20	*	26	74	70	49	22	16	13	15	17	367
Wages of Teachers per mo., - - -	12	22	14	13½	25	11	10	25	9	6	20	10	

* No examination.

Report of the Treasurer of Fitzwilliam,

MARCH 9th, 1850.

Balance in the Treasury last year, - - -	\$1207,46
Sale of Fire Engine, - - - - -	51,00
Received of the County for paupers, - - -	121,52
Literary fund for 1849, - - - - -	59,88
Received Road Tax for 1849, - - - - -	245,67
“ Circus License, - - - - -	30,00
“ Sale of G. Freeman's clothes, - - -	2,45
“ For Sarah Grover, County pauper, - -	5,75
“ From C. Biglow, collector for 1847, -	19,83
“ “ C. Sabin, collector for 1848, -	56,86
“ “ N. Morse, collector for 1849, -	1371,06
Received as interest, - - - - -	30,00
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Total Receipts, - - - - -	\$3201,48

EXPENDITURES.

Paid last year's orders, - - - -	\$25,75
“ this year's orders, - - - -	2557,04
Cash in the Treasury, - - - -	618,69
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	\$3201,48
Due from C. Biglow, on Taxes of 1847, -	\$21,84
“ C. Sabin, on taxes of 1848, -	22,25
“ N. Morse, on taxes of 1849, -	166,21
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	\$210,30

JOHN WOOD, *Treasurer.*

Selectmen's Report—MARCH 9th, 1850.

Drawn from the Treasury by orders,	-	\$2557,04
Last year's orders,	- - - -	25,75
		<hr/>
		\$2582,79

Which sum has been expended for the following purposes, to wit:—

To the several school districts,	- -	993,15
To district No. 6, for 1848,	- - -	13,00
		<hr/>
		\$1006,15

PAUPER EXPENSES.

Sarah Grover,	16,00
Nancy Warner,	100,00
Lucretia Mellen,	50,00
Moses Warner,	37,00
Daniel Holt,	33,01
Mrs. Saunders,	48,88
Azuba Locke,	37,53
Julia A. Peak,	35,72
Sophia Stone,	68,33
Mrs. Merrill's child,	51,25
D. C. Stone,	2,00
Two travellers,	2,18
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	Total \$481,89

LAND DAMAGES.

John Whittemore,	\$142,33
Ebenezer Potter,	30,00
Abel Angier & Sons,	64,38
John Damon,	3,00
Theophilus May,	18,00
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	Total \$257,71

TOWN OFFICERS.

Selectmen,	\$90,00
Town Clerk,	6,00
Treasurer,	5,00
S. School Committee,	42,00
Firewards,	15,62
Collector of Taxes,	40,00
Sexton,	34,44
<hr/> Total \$233,06	

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

R. B. Pratt, for sluice near old Meeting House,	\$2,00
Levi Haskell, two Sluices in the village,	16,00
do. work on Troy road,	3,95
Nathan Stone, repairs of Gap's Mountain road,	45,00
H. H. Wheeler, work on road,	1,40
Sam'l Hayden, work on road,	2,56
Amos S. Pratt, for plank,	3,75
B. B. Davidson for gravel,	2,00
J. Whittemore, jr., for powder,	1,89
Willard White, work on road,	6,00
James Corey, for plank and work,	12,16
George W. Simonds, for plank and work,	9,58
Eli Smith, for plank and work,	4,25
J. S. Adams, for timber and surveying,	12,26
E. & C. Carter, for Guide boards &c.,	6,42
Levi Harris, for plank,	1,36
C. Biglow, work on Troy road &c.,	3,25
John Damon, for plank and work,	19,26
Nahum Howe, plank and work,	8,09
B. W. Felch, plank and work,	5,91
P. D. Angier, stone guide post and work,	2,25
B. W. Byam, stone guard stones,	1,50
Benj. Byam, building new road,	90,00
<hr/> \$263,84	

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Printing School report,	-	-	-	-	\$30,00
Ringing the Bell,	-	-	-	-	25,00
Cost of laying out new road,	-	-	-	-	48,66
Repairs on Hearse,	-	-	-	-	5,35
J. Kimball, for Gate irons,	-	-	-	-	2,37
Soldiers at Muster,	-	-	-	-	50,00
Since Muster,	-	-	-	-	63,00
Bell rope,	-	-	-	-	7,11
24 Engine men,	-	-	-	-	36,00
Teacher's Institute,	-	-	-	-	17,00
E. Bowker's bill,	-	-	-	-	5,75
Copy of laying out the new road,	-	-	-	-	1,00
Abatement of taxes,	-	-	-	-	10,20
Non-resident taxes worked out,	-	-	-	-	11,22
Last year's orders,	-	-	-	-	25,75
Blanks, books and stationery,	-	-	-	-	1,73

 \$2582,79

A. A. PARKER,	} <i>Selectmen,</i>
ELIJAH BOWKER,	
REUBEN B. PRATT,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>Fitzwilliam.</i>



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